SNAPSHOT IMMORTALIZED IN BRONZE

Statue of the Martyred McKinley to Be Unveiled at Canton at the Dedication of the National Memorial Tomorrow.

"In this hour of deep and terrible national bereavement," said Theodore Roosevelt, "I wish to state that it shall be my intention and endeavor to continue absolutely unbroken the policy of President McKinley for the peace and prosperity and honor of our beloved country." It was in the Wilcox home at Buffalo. The revered dead, still unburied, lay in the Milburn house. The whole nation was plunged in grief by the terrible news that the attack of the poor crazed anarchist had proved fatal. That September afternoon, just after taking the oath of office as President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt then paid a keen-witted and wholly sincere tribute to his dead chief. Now the dedication which will be made tomorrow at Canton, Ohio, of a sumptuous mausoleum, in every respect a national tribute to the memory of McKinley, is another and monumental evidence of the same devotion to the dead President.

It has been frequently said that the last months of President McKinley's administration are foreshadowed only by the second term of James Monroe, known generally to historians as the "Era of Good Feeling." At both periods American arms had been triumphant in a foreign war. In the later time Manila and Santiago were fresh in the minds of the people. After domestic years of isolation the republic of the west had stepped forth into its proper place among the greatest nations of the earth. The President had been elected with spectacular majorities for a second term, and all political bitternesses had spent themselves in the electoral contest. In company with his wife Mr. McKinley had made a journey westward to California, passing through the Southern states, where he had been received with acclamations. There the multitudes cordially greeted him as the twice chosen ruler of a united nation. The administration was opening with favorable omens, and the phenomenal business and general material prosperity had so enriched the nation that the contentment of all in a new golden age was manifest in wide good will and thorough tolerance.

Was a Broad Statesman.

President McKinley himself, whom friends and those who at one time had been political enemies praised, or accused, of keeping his ear close to the ground, had broadened with the duties of governing a new and more imposing government and had become an even greater man. As a politician he had recalled in appearance and manner the older school of American men of public life. Smooth shaven, always dressed in black, suave in address and personally extremely dignified while most genial, he had, with the success of his first administration, greatly endeared himself to the people. The refined simplicity which pervaded the White House, the spotless private life and exceptionally beautiful association with his invalid wife, heightened the growing admiration of the man into a profound respect for the magistrate. And with the great problems which the Spanish war involved, President McKinley, ever earnest, ever listening, ever sincere, was rising to a degree of nonpartisanship which laid the basis of his enduring fame as a statesman. Believing himself an official for the nation, and inclined to execute the will of the sovereign people, he still became through his sincerity, kindheartedness, safeness and sensibleness, firm and determined. He laid aside obsolete creeds and grappled with the new conditions. When he rose at Buffalo on the President's day of the Pan-American exposition he was at the zenith of his fame and his development. Fifty thousand people, among whom there before him was the evil-dreamer Czolgosz, listened on that brilliant Thursday morning, September 5, in the gorgeous esplanade to an address that marks the climax of his statesmanship. Near the standing President sat his proud and smiling wife. He was no longer fettered by the dogmas of a narrow protectionism. Words that he spoke then he would when the McKinley tariff bill was before the house have himself deemed heretical. They were golden words which alone prove the majesty of his broad economic belief.

From the Last Oration.

"Comparison of ideas is always educational; and as such it instructs the brain and heart of man. Friendly rivalry follows, which is the spur of industrial improvement, the inspiration to useful invention and to high endeavor in all departments of human activity. The quest for trade is an incentive to men of business to devise, invent, improve and economize in the course of production. Business life, whether among ourselves or with other people, is ever a sharp struggle for success. It will be none the less so in the future. But, though commercial competitors we are, commercial enemies we must not be. The wisdom and energy of all the nations are none too great for the world's work. The success of art, science, industry and invention is an international asset and a crowning glory.

"Isolation is no longer possible or desirable. God and man have linked the nations together. No nation can longer be indifferent to any other. Only a broad and enlightened policy will keep what we have. No other policy will get more. By the sensible trade arrangements which will not interrupt our home production we shall extend the outlets for our increasing surplus.

"A system which provides a mutual exchange of commodities is manifestly essential to the continued healthful growth of our export trade. We must not repose in fancied security that we can forever sell everything and buy little or nothing. If such a thing were possible it would not be best for us or for those with whom we have to deal. We should take from our customers such of their products as we can use without harm to our industries and labor.

New Doctrine of Reciprocity.

"Reciprocity is the natural growth of our wonderful industrial development under the domestic policy now firmly established. What we produce beyond our domestic consumption must have a vent abroad. The excess must be relieved through a foreign outlet, and we should sell everything we can and buy wherever the buying will enlarge our sales and productions, and therefore make a greater demand for home labor.

"The period of exclusiveness is past. The expansion of our trade and ...erce is the pressing problem. Commercial wars are unprofitable. A policy of good will and friendly trade relations will prevent reprisals. Reciprocity treaties are in harmony with the spirit of the times; measures of retaliation are not.

"If, perchance, some of our tariffs are no longer needed for revenue or to encourage and protect our industries at home, why should they not be employed to extend and promote our markets abroad?

"Gentlemen, let us ever remember that our interest is in concord, not conflict, and that our real eminence rests in the victories of peace, and not those of war. We hope that all who are represented here may be moved to higher and nobler effort for their own and the world's good, and that out of this city may come, not only greater commerce and trade for us all, but, more essential than these, relations of mutual respect, confidence and friendship, which will deepen and endure. Our earnest prayer is that God will graciously vouchsafe prosperity, happiness and peace to all our neighbors, and like blessings to all the peoples and the powers of the earth." And with this he concluded his address.

It has been said by historians who have already endeavored to make an estimate of McKinley's genius that he possessed good judgment and was quick to take a hint; that his shrewdness, tact and willingness to listen to advice made him a profound reader of men and a close student of political events; but that he lacked magnetism, and, while pleasing in manner and sometimes wise and sententious, he was never eloquent; that he could not, like Clay and Blaine, rouse great masses of men to a frenzy of enthusiasm. Strange, then, if this estimate be just, that that day at Buffalo he should have had such power.

When the photographer, bent upon the imperative desire to have a picture from a particular point of view, came to the head of the stairs within five feet of the orator, such was the force of his eloquence, so compelling was the magnetism of his personality while delivering his new and absorbing doctrine of reciprocity, that, camera in hand, the artist stood spellbound. Mr. McKinley had never been greater. The majesty and dignity with which he pronounced his epoch-making lines electrified. The inspiring picture of the man himself as he stood before the people came to the artist's consciousness and quickly five or more snap shots were taken. Before the great speech was over, from a position of vantage off to the side the picture of the whole esplanade, with the faces of the upturned crowd upon the doomed orator, was also secured.

Records of an Administration.

Miss Frances B. Johnston had known President McKinley for a number of years. She had facetiously been called the "photographer of the American court." A long association with the Clevelands, the Harrisons, the Cabinet and the diplomatic corps established for her a distinct place among photographers. Fifteen or more days after the first inauguration of President McKinley she photographed his Cabinet, and the President himself and Mrs. McKinley sat for her often. When, on August 12, 1898, after the anxious and tumultuous days of the Spanish war, the peace protocol was signed, the august body of diplomats, with M. Cambon, the French Embassador, and Judge Day as the centers of interest with President McKinley, this unofficial lady photographer was on hand and made several plates during the actual signing of the great paper. The table on which the protocol was signed had been given to the Presidents of the United States by the late Queen Victoria, and was made from the wood of the ship sent to rescue Sir John Franklin. When, in the uncertainty which attends photograph making, there seemed some chance that the historic moment might not have been fittingly caught, the signers posed again to make sure. Later, when Mr. McKinley's envoys, his dear friend, Judge William R. Day, among them, whom he spoke of as "having a genius for common sense," effected a treaty at Paris and the much-disputed question of the settlement of the Philippines was ended by the agreement of the United States to pay $20,000,000 for them, the draft itself was handed over by the obliging officials to the ever-present picture maker and actually photographed. Nobody seemed to know anything strange was being done, but before any prints could be made from the plates officers from the secret service were on hand at the studio to seize upon the negatives. The department had awakened to one of its rules and the $20,000,000 draft photograph was seized.

Naturally, when the second inauguration took place, so much more imposing than the first, every detail of decoration at the White House, at the pension office, where the ball was held, and at the capitol was chronicled in negatives. One of the most interesting is the moment when Chief Justice Fuller administered the oath, with Vice-President Roosevelt standing close at hand.

The Last Portrait.

It was under these circumstances not strange that upon that great fall day at Buffalo President McKinley consented to pose again for his Washington friend. His secretary, Mr. Cortelyou, made all the arrangements. After the oration in the morning Mrs. McKinley, fatigued, was driven back to the Milburn residence. Mr. Milburn was the president of the exposition. Mr. McKinley made a tour of the principal buildings, was entertained at a luncheon with 200 guests, after which a reception was held in the government building. As the guests filed by, and there had been a great number bidden to the event, the whole line was halted that the picture might be taken.

It is a peculiarly interesting picture, for it not only shows the towering Col. John H. Brigham, Senor Aspiroz, the Mexican Embassador; Mrs. John Miller Horton, chairman of the entertainment committee, and Mr. Milburn, but Secretary Cortelyou. The present Secretary of the Treasury had been repeatedly requested, while acting as Mr. McKinley's secretary, to pose with the President. He had always modestly refused. This one occasion at Buffalo is the only time that he was consciously taken with his chief. But the picture is also historic in being the last for which President McKinley stood. It represents the President, calm, thoughtful and dignified. Outside prowled Czolgosz.

Miss Johnston, whom Mr. Birge had asked to bring her camera, says she never saw the President in more exhilarated spirits. He had thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Niagara, he felt like a boy out of school full of spirits. A telephone message came for him that Mrs. McKinley was resting nicely. Genial and expansive he sat and smoked one of his favorite black cigars and had a kind word with each of the little group. Mr. Birge had been anxious to secure a picture of the President in the mission, which was a truly artistic reproduction of the old Spanish architecture, but so delicate was his feeling that although he knew the President would grant his request, he could not make it. At about ten minutes of four the genial party broke up and President McKinley drove off with Mr. Milburn and Secretary Cortelyou. As he raised his hat smiling the camera did its work. The happy, comfortable party had no premonition of the event hovering above them to descend in only seventeen minutes.

The photographer, charmed with the Mission building, borrowed some Mexican peons from a show near by for local color, and was busy making pictures when two ladies, handsomely dressed, came rushing breathlessly to her. They had been guests at the tea. Horror transfigured their faces.

"He's been shot," they wailed.

"Who? What are you saying?"

A crowd gathered. The President, the President has been killed.

Incredulity, consternation, fear took possession of every one. No one believed it possible. Every one rushed to the Temple of Music. Every other idea was forgotten.

It was the following day before the photographer who had last seen the President such a smiling, beneficent, vigorous personality came to a realization of her work. Her photographs had all been forgotten in her grief. The man intrusted with the daily development of her plates and films sought her out in wild excitement. A wonderful thing had happened. The snapshots taken by chance under the impelling magnetism of the martyr while making his last speech impressed with their dignity even the artisan who developed the negatives. One particularly showed the President in a striking attitude as his friends knew him, erect, impelling, magnetic.

A Last Tribute.

This was the photograph that came to be immortalized in bronze. Friends had admired it. Mrs. McKinley had wept over it. Of the thousands of photographs which had been taken of the President, none other seemed so fraught with his own personality and power.

When the days went on and the universal sorrow of the American people during the funeral pageant at Buffalo, Washington and Canton began to grow calm, thoughts of a fitting memorial to the man and statesman took shape. To the late President's closest and warmest friends was intrusted the erection of a monument worthy of the man and representative of the devotion of the whole country. Architects, artists, sculptors vied in doing honor to the well-beloved.

During the days when plans for the memorial were under consideration, Mr. Cortelyou wrote to the photographer for copies of the famous picture. It was not long after that the committee announced that the making of the heroic bronze statue of McKinley had been intrusted to Charles Henry Niehaus and that it would represent the President as he delivered his last speech at Buffalo. Later when the model was presented to trustees of the National Memorial association it was accepted as a masterly characterization of the President.

Writing to Miss Johnson under date of April 8, 1907, the Secretary of the Treasury, speaking of the photograph which the memorial committee propose to use in the official souvenir of the dedication day, says:

"I heartily concur in the views expressed by many friends of the late President as to the excellence of the likeness and the high historical value of the picture. It represents the late President in one of his characteristic attitudes and as I think I have already told you, it was adopted as a basis for the statue which is to be placed in front of the memorial at Canton, Ohio.

"Very sincerely yours,

"GEO. B. CORTELYOU."

So small a thing as a four by five film made such an impression that Americans for all the ages making pilgrimages to Canton will know McKinley as it pictures him. It is like his own ness, which centered in his ov tiful home, grew and expanded compassed the nation and all ple of the land became his lov